

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 10, 2018

Agenda Item: Draft Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide 2019-2027

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 20 minutes

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Background: The first Statewide Fisheries Management Plan was completed in 2013 and provided a summary of Fisheries Division programs and how fisheries are managed across the state. The plan was not prescriptive, in that it did not propose specific management actions if specific goals or objectives were not met. Since the document functions differently than waterbody or species-specific management plans, staff is proposing a name change for this draft to the Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide 2019-2027 (Guide). The Guide will provide the framework for how programs within the Fisheries Division function and outline how fisheries are managed across Montana. The Guide contains two parts: Part I summarizes specific programs within the division and how those programs support fisheries activities; Part II is organized by drainage and provides an overview of fisheries priorities and challenges within each drainage and outlines priorities for primary waterbodies within drainages. The Guide provides updates to fisheries programs and addresses new issues that have occurred since the first plan was completed in 2013. Drainage and waterbody-specific issues and priorities are also updated in the Guide. The Guide is intended to be used as a reference for legislators during biennial legislative sessions, to be used to inform fishing regulation setting during four-year review, and to serve as a reference to the angling and recreating public to understand fisheries programs and how aquatic resources are managed.

Public Involvement Process & Results: A public comment period will occur if the commission approves the draft plan for public comment. Comments received will be reviewed, analyzed, and summarized by FWP staff. Practical comments that fit within fisheries management and program function will be considered for the final Guide. Copies of all comments received will be provided to the commission.

Alternatives and Analysis: The commission could choose to approve the draft Guide for public comment. The commission could choose to not approve the draft Guide and it would not be released for public comment.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: FWP staff recommend approving the draft Guide and compile public comment.

Proposed Motion:

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the draft Statewide Fisheries Management Program and Guide 2019-2027 and collect public comment.